

Appendix 2. Taxa to watch. Includes taxa that are not on the 2002 special concern list that (1) formerly were on the 1978 (Remsen 1978) or 1992 (CDFG 1992) special concern lists and are not currently listed as state threatened and endangered, (2) have been removed (delisted) from either the state or federal threatened and endangered lists, or (3) that are currently designated as “fully protected” in California (<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hcpb/species/species.shtml>). Brief accounts are provided below for all such taxa; their criteria scores, which indicate lack of biological justification for inclusion on the bird species of special concern list, are available at <http://www.prbo.org/BSSC/index.htm>.

Double-crested cormorant

Included on CDFG’s (1992) unprioritized list and Remsen’s (1978) prioritized list, second priority. Coastal breeding populations have increased since at least the early 1980s (Carter et al. 1992); apparent increases in interior breeding populations are difficult to interpret because of limited historical data (D. Shuford unpubl. data).

White-faced ibis

Included on CDFG’s (1992) unprioritized list and Remsen’s (1978) prioritized list, highest priority. Both breeding and wintering populations have increased in California since the 1980s (Shuford et al. 1996, Earnst et al. 1998).

Trumpeter swan

The trumpeter swan is currently considered a “fully protected” species in California. This species’ historical status in California is unclear because of problems in identifying it. Grinnell and Miller (1994) reported that it was “believed to have been of regular occurrence, formerly, though in smaller numbers than whistling [tundra] swan ... reported but once since 1900.” This swan currently is so rare in California that all known

records are evaluated by the California Bird Records Committee. Beyond identification problems, the committee has struggled with records of this species because of the highly managed nature of many populations in the conterminous United States (especially eastern Washington and eastern Oregon); some birds in California in winter may be from populations outside the historic breeding range of the species that may not be well established after introduction (McCaskie and San Miguel 1999).

Aleutian Canada goose.

This subspecies of the Canada goose was listed as federally endangered in 1967, upgraded to federally threatened in 1990, and delisted in 2001, when the population was considered recovered.

Osprey

Included on CDFG's (1992) unprioritized list and Remsen's (1978) prioritized list, second priority. Breeding populations have increased in California in recent decades (Gould and Jurek 1988, Sauer et al. 2001).

White-tailed kite

This species is currently considered a "fully protected" species in California. Despite the difficulty of tracking the trends of a species that fluctuates greatly from year to year, numbers of kites on BBS routes in California have been relatively stable over the period 1966-2000 (Sauer et al. 2001).

Sharp-shinned hawk

Included on CDFG's (1992) unprioritized list and Remsen's (1978) prioritized list, third priority. Data are inadequate for trend assessment on BBS routes in California (Sauer et al. 2001).

Cooper's hawk

Included on CDFG's (1992) unprioritized list and Remsen's (1978) prioritized list, third priority. Breeding populations have increased in California and expanded into urban areas (California county breeding bird atlas data). Data are inadequate for trend assessment on BBS routes in California (Sauer et al. 2001).

Ferruginous hawk

Included on CDFG's (1992) unprioritized list. There appears to be no documented evidence of substantial declines in numbers of this hawk wintering in California. Expansion of urban development and of vineyards into former grasslands, though, has reduced some foraging areas for the species.

Golden eagle

Included on CDFG's (1992) unprioritized list and Remsen's (1978) prioritized list, third priority; currently considered a "fully protected" species in California. Numbers of golden eagles on BBS routes in California have been relatively stable over the period 1966-2000 (Sauer et al. 2001).

Merlin

Included on CDFG's (1992) unprioritized list and Remsen's (1978) prioritized list, first priority. Merlins have increased as migrants and wintering birds in California in recent decades (A. Fish/Golden Gate Raptor Observatory unpubl. data).

Ruffed grouse

Included on CDFG's (1992) unprioritized list and Remsen's (1978) prioritized list, third priority. Although this species is considered "rare" in northwestern California, there appears to be no evidence of population declines in this region (Harris 1991).

Long-billed curlew

Included on CDFG's (1992) unprioritized list but not on Remsen's (1978) prioritized list. A small population of curlews breeds in the Great Basin Desert, Modoc Plateau, and Klamath Basin of northeastern California (Grinnell and Miller 1944, D. Shuford pers. obs.). Data are inadequate for trend assessment on BBS routes in California (Sauer et al. 2001), and even anecdotal information on the status of curlews is limited for this remote region of the state.

Laughing gull

Included on CDFG's (1992) unprioritized list and Remsen's (1978) prioritized list, first priority. A few pairs of laughing gulls have bred sporadically at the Salton Sea from at least 1928 until the late 1950s and one to two pairs since 1994 (Molina 2000). Breeding numbers at the Salton Sea are likely influenced by the dynamics of breeding

populations in Mexico, and, hence, the species' fate in California is unlikely to be influenced by conservation efforts in the state.

California gull

Included on CDFG's (1992) unprioritized list and Remsen's (1978) prioritized list, third priority. The main threat to the state's breeding population was eliminated by a state water board order in 1994, which will maintain lake levels at Mono Lake that will protect the state's largest colony from ground predators (Shuford and Ryan 2000).

Rhinoceros auklet

Included on CDFG's (1992) unprioritized list and Remsen's (1978) prioritized list, third priority. Breeding populations of the rhinoceros auklet have increased in California since the early 1970s, particularly since 1980 (Carter et al. 1992).

Black swift

Included on CDFG's (1992) unprioritized list and Remsen's (1978) prioritized list, third priority. Although the species is a rare and local breeder in California, there currently does not appear to be any evidence of substantial population declines or threats to the species.

Brown-crested flycatcher

Included on CDFG's (1992) unprioritized list and Remsen's (1978) prioritized list, third priority. Grinnell and Miller (1944) considered this species a "marginal

pioneer” on the basis of two specimens collected in the lower Colorado River valley near Bard, Imperial County, in 1921. The species apparently increased dramatically along the Colorado River since the 1950s, in spite of massive habitat loss, and spread west to Morongo Valley, San Bernardino County, and South Fork Kern River valley, Kern County (Garrett and Dunn 1981, Rosenberg et al. 1991, Johnson 1994). Despite the prior population increase and recent range expansion, numbers along the Colorado River, have decreased from an estimated 800 individuals in 1976 to 435 by the mid-1980s (Rosenberg et al. 1991).

Loggerhead shrike

Included on CDFG’s (1992) unprioritized list but not on Remsen’s (1978) prioritized list. Bears close watching as numbers of this species on BBS routes in California have shown highly significant decline for the period 1966-1979 and a marginally significant decline for the period 1966-2000 (Sauer et al. 2001).

Eagle Mountain western scrub-jay

Included on CDFG’s (1992) unprioritized list but not on Remsen’s (1978) prioritized list. This subspecies, ascribed solely from Eagle Mountain, Riverside County (AOU 1957), is of questionable validity (P. Unitt pers. comm.). Regardless, there appears to be no evidence of a population decline within its limited described range.

Black-capped chickadee

Included on CDFG's (1992) unprioritized list and Remsen's (1978) prioritized list, third priority. Since at least the late 1980s, this species appears to have expanded its range southward from its California stronghold in the Lake Earl-Smith River area, Del Norte County, to the Humboldt Bay area, Humboldt County (Harris 1991). Data are inadequate for trend assessment on BBS routes in California (Sauer et al. 2001).

Black-tailed gnatcatcher

Included on Remsen's (1978) prioritized list (second priority), particularly on the basis of declines of what was then considered a subspecies, the California black-tailed gnatcatcher (*Polioptila melanura californica*). This subspecies has since been classified as part of a separate species, the California Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*), and in 1993 the Alta (coastal) California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) was listed as federally endangered. Rosenberg et al. (1991) considered the black-tailed gnatcatcher a "common resident and breeder" that maintained "very stable" population sizes in the lower Colorado River valley from year to year. Numbers of black-tailed gnatcatchers on BBS routes in California showed a highly significant decline for the period 1966-1979, no significant trend for the period 1980-2000, and a decline approaching significance for 1966-2000 (Sauer et al. 2001).

Le Conte's thrasher

Included on CDFG's (1992) unprioritized list and Remsen's (1978) prioritized list, third priority. Numbers of Le Conte's thrashers on BBS routes in California have been relatively stable over the period 1966-2000 (Sauer et al. 2001).

Virginia's warbler

Included on CDFG's (1992) unprioritized list and Remsen's (1978) prioritized list, third priority. This warbler breeds in arid mountain ranges mostly along the Nevada border and has expanded its range westward to the San Bernardino Mountains, San Bernardino County (Johnson and Garrett 1974), and to Glass Mountain, Mono County (Shuford and Metropulos 1996). Although the overall population in California appears to be small, there seems to be no evidence of population declines or major threats to its existence in California.

Hepatic tanager

Included on CDFG's (1992) unprioritized list and Remsen's (1978) prioritized list, third priority. This species expanded its range into California in the late 1960s to early 1970s (Johnson and Garrett 1974, Johnson 1994). Garrett and Dunn (1981) considered this species a "rare" summer resident on arid mountain ranges in the Mohave Desert of San Bernardino County. Their estimate for population size in 1977 were two pairs on Clark Mountain, three pairs in the Kinston Mountains, and one pair in the New York Mountains; one to two pairs were in the northeastern San Bernardino Mountains sporadically from the late 1960s to 1980. Like several other species occurring in very small numbers in southeastern California, this size of this tanager's population in the state is likely affected by population dynamics in Arizona.

Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow

Included on CDFG's (1992) unprioritized list but not on Remsen's (1978) prioritized list. Although BBS data are not available by subspecies, numbers of rufous-crowned sparrows overall (two mainland races) have been relatively stable on routes in California over the period 1966-2000 (Sauer et al. 2001). Although its spatial pattern of abundance in urban-fragmented habitat in southern California suggests it is sensitive to changes in habitat configuration or quality that occur with fragmentation, reproductive output did not differ between sparrows nesting in interior sage scrub and those breeding in habitat adjacent to urban edges (Morrison and Bolger 2002).

Bell's sage sparrow

Included on CDFG's (1992) unprioritized list but not on Remsen's (1978) prioritized list. Concern has been expressed for populations of this sparrow in southern California (J. Lovio in litt.) but it seems to be holding its own in northern California and in the state as a whole (S. England in litt.).

Gray-headed junco

Included on CDFG's (1992) unprioritized list and Remsen's (1978) prioritized list, third priority. A rare breeder in the White and Inyo mountains, Inyo County, the Grapevine Mountains, Inyo County (at least on Nevada side), and Clark Mountain, San Bernardino County (Grinnell and Miller 1944, Garrett and Dunn 1981, Johnson and Cicero 1986). This junco was unknown from the White-Inyos prior to 1954, when it was considered to be "fairly common;" recently it was reported to be a rare summer resident of the White-Inyos (Johnson and Cicero 1986). Fluctuations in junco numbers in

mountains along the California border are likely affected by population dynamics of juncos in nearby mountains in Nevada.

Northern cardinal

Included on CDFG's (1992) unprioritized list and Remsen's (1978) prioritized list, third priority. Northern Cardinals became established along the lower Colorado River, San Bernardino and Imperial counties, in the mid-1940s (Garrett and Dunn 1981, Rosenberg et al. 1991). These authors, respectively, considered the species "very rare" on the California side of the river and "rare and local" along the lower river as a whole. The fluctuations of cardinal numbers along the California border are likely a result of dynamics of breeding populations in Arizona, and, hence, the species' fate is unlikely to be influenced by conservation efforts in California.